



City of
Melville

MAY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Deputation

T21/3915 Request To Remove Street Tree At

3a Bolas Court, Myaree

Mr Chris Daly

Lot 1 3A Bolas Court Myaree

Evidence in Support of
Officers Recommendation
(3915) – Approval for Tree
Removal

Key Points:

- As per agenda for May OMC, Council Officer now recommends that the Council supports our request to remove and replace the Agonis Flexuosa (WA Peppermint) verge tree at 3A Bolas Court.
- Approval to remove WA Peppermint verge tree and plant 2 new verge trees will enable us to build a more energy efficient and climate friendly family home.
- Forced retention of verge tree would lead to a less solar passive home design, i.e. loss of northern aspect and associated solar energy benefits.
- If elected members vote to approve removal then WA Peppermint tree will be removed and 2 replacement trees will be planted at other areas on the verge. This will take the number of street trees on the verge to 5 (resulting in a net increase of street trees, not a reduction).
- This net increase in verge trees will – in the long term – help by providing more habitat options for local wildlife, provide more shade and process/filter more CO₂ from the air.
- In the interim, whilst the replacement trees establish themselves, there are still many mature verge trees on the verge, up and down Bolas Court and directly across the road at Herb Naphthally reserve.

Community Engagement:

- Letter and survey sent out by Council to 42 homes on April 12th was not balanced – it did not comment on the reasoning behind our request. It simply stated the dollar value of the tree and that it was healthy; this hardly presented enough information on which to provide an informed response.
- As such, on the 27th of April we provided each of these 42 households with the letter we previously provided to direct neighbours in April. This was to give these residents with both sides of the story before casting their vote.
- Subsequently we received numerous calls, text, emails and letters of support for our application. Several neighbours were disappointed with the one-sided Council letter.
- There is overwhelming evidence which illustrates that the community supports the removal of this particular verge tree. Especially due to our reasoning for removal and the fact that two replacement trees will be planted and we will bear the full costs of removal and replacement works.

Conclusion:

- We have followed the Council policies and have engaged with Council Officers, elected members and most importantly, our community in good faith on this matter. This demonstrates that we are honest, responsible citizens of the City of Melville.
- Approval of our request will actually help the City achieve the goal of increasing the tree population – as set out in the Tree Policy CP-029 policy statement.
- Council Officers support our removal application and acknowledge why removal is required in order to stop poor built form development outcomes, i.e. illogical/unbecoming garage location, loss of solar passive opportunities and functional outdoor spaces.